

**SITE RECONNAISSANCE TRIP REPORT
FOR THE
BOWERS BATTERY & SPARK PLUG COMPANY
LAURELDALE, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

Prepared for

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3
Hazardous Site Cleanup Division
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Under Remedial Action Contract (RAC) No. 68-S7-3002, Work Assignment No. 048-PAPA-03ZZ, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 3 tasked Tetra Tech, Inc. (Tt), to prepare a trip report for the site reconnaissance completed at Bowers Battery & Spark Plug Company located in the Borough of Laureldale, Berks County, Pennsylvania. The site reconnaissance involved completing a windshield survey of the location to document current site conditions and potential threats. This report summarizes the observations recorded during the windshield survey. Tt subcontracted completion of the work assignment to Tetra Tech EM Inc. (Tetra Tech).

2.0 SITE OBSERVATIONS

On January 18, 2006, Tetra Tech completed a windshield survey of the Bowers Battery & Spark Plug Company site. The approximately 45-acre site is currently owned and operated by Exide Technologies and is located along Spring Valley Road and Nolan Street in Laureldale Borough and Muhlenberg Township, just northeast of Reading, Pennsylvania (Ref. 1). The site is located in mixed industrial/residential area. The geographic coordinates of the facility are 40° 22' 45.18" north latitude and 75° 54' 47.29" west longitude on the Temple, Pennsylvania, 7.5 minute series, United State Geological Survey topographic map (see Figure 1).

The facility is currently owned and operated by Exide Technologies (Exide). Exide Technologies currently manufactures and recycles lead batteries on the property. The recycled lead is smelted and cast into lead-alloy bars to make new batteries (Ref. 1). Exide Technologies purchased the facility from General Battery Corporation, a Fruit of the Loom company, in 1987. General Battery Corporation purchased the facility in 1956 from Bowers Battery & Spark Plug Co. Bowers Battery & Spark Plug Co. began manufacturing batteries, which included operating a lead smelter at this location in 1921 (Ref. 2). In August 2000, EPA issued an Administrative

Order on Consent (AOC) to Exide to investigate the extent of lead contamination in soil near the facility and to cleanup properties that have been adversely impacted by 35 years of emissions from the lead smelter (Ref. 1). As part of the AOC, Exide will collect soil samples from properties located in Laureldale Borough and Muhlenberg Township to assess the extent of soil lead concentrations that are above EPA's screening level for lead. In addition, the AOC required Exide to cleanup nineteen properties adjacent to the facility as directed by a Consent Order and Agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. It confirmed that the Exide site is the same property that Bowers Battery occupied from 1921 through 1956.

The following observations were recorded during the windshield survey:

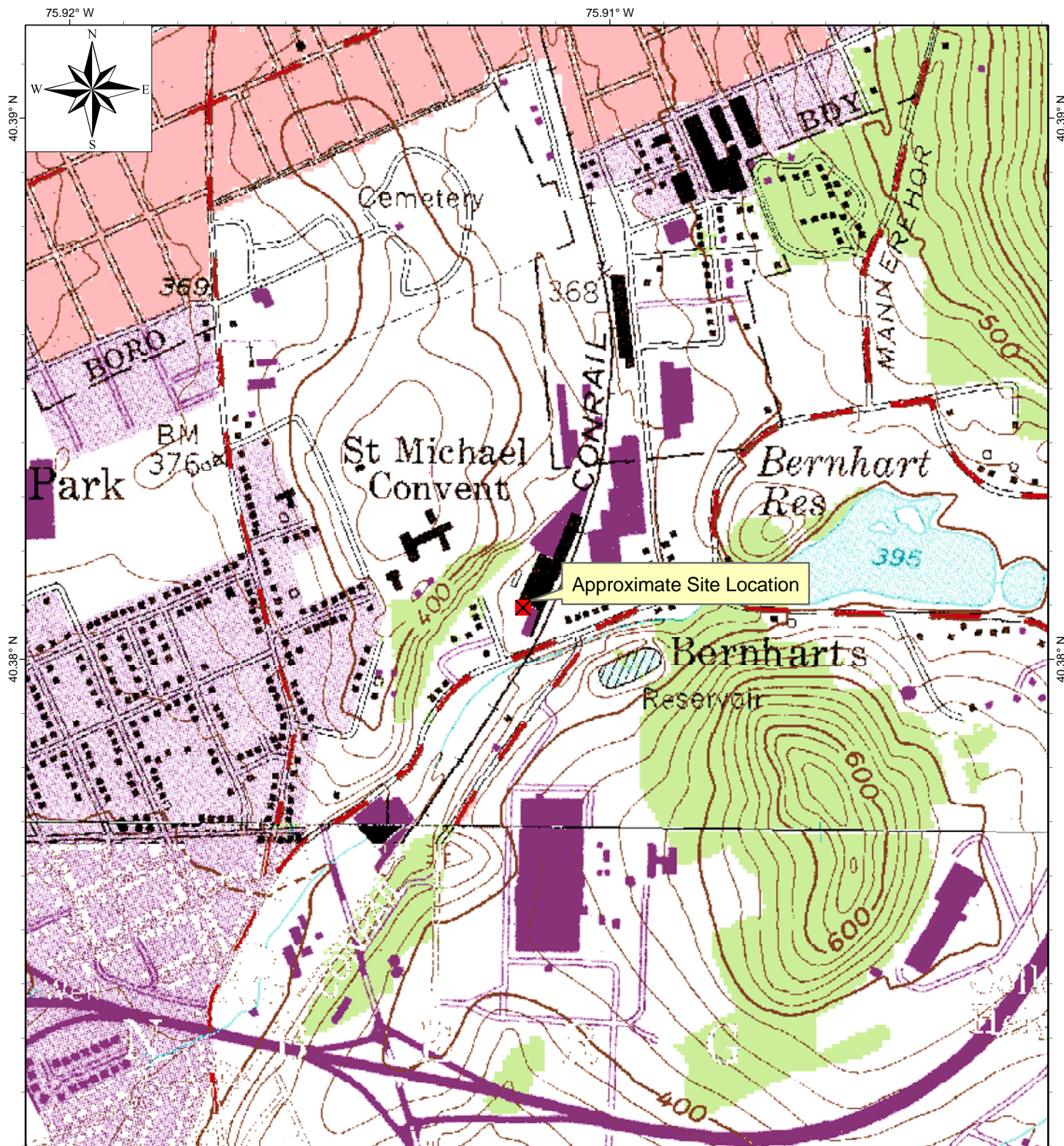
- The facility is surrounded by a fence with access secured by a manned gate at several locations. A large sign on the building located at the intersection of Nolan Street and Spring Valley Road indicates that the facility is currently operated by Exide Technologies.
- Land use in the area of the facility is mixed residential, industrial and commercial. Directly surrounding the facility to the west are a few residential homes and an automotive repair shop, to the north and south are parking lots associated with the facility, to the east are residential properties.
- It confirmed during the windshield survey that the Exide facility that is currently being addressed under an EPA AOC is the same property formerly known as Bowers Battery & Spark Plug Co. Because the site is currently being addressed by EPA, no further site assessment work is warranted at this site.

REFERENCE

1. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Exide/EPA Investigation, Reading, PA. Mid-Atlantic Corrective Action Website. <http://www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/ca/exide.html>
2. Reading Eagle. "Exide Technologies Company History". ReadingEagle.com
3. County of Berks Assessment Office. Property Parcel ID 66531809261883. <http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Assessment/Pages/default.aspx>

Appendix A

Figure 1, Site Location Map



Source: Modified from USGS 7.5-Minute Series Topographic Quadrangles: Temple, PA 1956, Photorevised 1983 and Reading, PA 1956, Photorevised 1983.

0 0.25
Miles

Quadrangle Location = ■

Pennsylvania



Bowers Battery & Spark Plug Company
Reading, Berks County, PA

Figure 1
Site Location Map

Project No. I4185475020903

Map created on January 24, 2006
by [REDACTED] Tetra Tech EMI



TETRA TECH

Appendix B

Photographic Documentation

PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION
Bowers Battery & Spark Plug Co.
Laureldale, PA

Photo 1:

View of facility sign that currently occupies Nolan Street and Spring Valley Road property formerly known as Bowers Battery & Spark Plug Co.



Photo 2:

View of facility facing west.



PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

US Metals
Erie, PA
July 18, 2005

Photo 3:

View of facility facing
north.



Photo 4:

View of active smelter
located at facility.

